

## A Celebration of Grace in the Life of Robin Ann Lewin – July 16, 2018

### **John 15:9-17**

*As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you...*

*You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*

**You did not choose me, but I chose you.** That verse from the Gospel reading was Robin's Confirmation verse. I gave it to her for her day of Confirmation on Reformation Sunday in the year 2000. She was in the first Confirmation class of the new millennium, full of dreams and new ideas and nothing but promise. But Robin Ann Lewin, passed away last Monday, July 9, 2018 in Olathe, less than a month short of her 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Robin was born August 1, 1986 to Craig and Toni Lewin, and she graduated from Olathe South High School in 2003. Most recently, she was employed with CVS as a pharmacy technician. She is survived by her parents, Craig and Toni Lewin, her brother Eric Lewin and wife, Traci, her nephew Zackary Lewin, her uncle and aunt, Jay and Mary Bessey and their girls, her grandmother Shirley Steinbach, and step-grandfather Harrold Steinbach. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Richard Bessey, and Robert and Harriet Lewin.

When word of Robin's untimely death started to spread, people inevitably asked, "What happened?" Young women of Robin's age should be many years away from death, but in her case, 31 was the span of her years. Robin had travelled up and down many roads in her short life, receiving the love of her mother, who "could read her like a book," the support of her dad and brother who provided endless fixes to cars and computers. The journey also brought her a sister-in-law and nephew Zack in whom she found someone who enjoyed blowing bubbles as much as she did.

Growing up, Robin was always listening to songs about relationships, and it seems so unreal to us now to recognize that she never quite got where she was yearning to go. And it seems unfair that a woman with such a tender heart – the one who baby-sat for many of you in her younger years, the woman who once brought a friend home who needed some TLC and asked if she could give the friend some towels – should be gone too soon.

Since December, she found good work at CVS Pharmacy, where she made new friends and gained new relationships. If the comments on the memorial page are any indication, Robin was a willing worker, a responsible employee, and made friends with her laugh and her smiles. She had found a place to fit in and was starting to see her dreams become reality. The woman who could never turn away from a stray cat or dog or friend - that was the Robin who touched our hearts, and who we will miss.

But while Robin faced her share of struggles, she knew at her core that in the end everything would be all right. For Robin was baptized into Christ 30 days after she was born. In those waters, Robin was claimed by God forever, with a love that would never, ever let her go. So for those of you who grieve today, her family, her friends, her co-workers and neighbors who watched her grow up, please know that Robin is with God. As it says in the passage read from Romans, "*nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.*" Nothing. Nothing.

Every 6 or 7 months over the past few years, Robin would stop into Advent church where she grew up, and come into my office to share with me what was on her mind. Sometimes, it was sad news – as her grandparents were ailing, or passing, or injured. But in our last visit, just a few weeks ago, she told me about her job, and a relationship she felt sure would last, and a new corner she felt she was turning. She seemed to have finally gotten comfortable with the truth of her Confirmation verse, *“You did not choose me, but I chose you.”*

And before she left my office, she asked – as she always did – if she could have communion. So the ladies of our office staff and I joined hands with Robin and received the gift of grace in the body and blood of Jesus. We hugged, and she was gone. But somehow, this time, I had a peace about her and her journey. So, no matter how she left this life, please know that she left it in the arms of God. I know that she lived, forever claimed by God as his dear, beloved child. In closing, let me share with you this prayer:

### **Prayer of Faith**

We trust that beyond absence there is a presence.  
That beyond the pain there can be healing.  
That beyond brokenness there can be wholeness.  
That beyond anger there may be peace.  
That beyond hurting there may be forgiveness.  
That beyond silence there may be the word.  
That beyond the word there may be understanding.  
That through understanding there is Love.

So, all we who are gathered here to remember her smile and her heart need to know is that now she is with him in a place where there is no pain, no darkness, no failure to thrive, no struggle to live. Robin has gone to be with all the saints in heaven, where she will rest in the loving arms of the One who chose her from the first, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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